

May 8, 2008

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier and
Minister of Research and Innovation
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

RE: Consumer Protection Legislation for Residents of Retirement Homes

At its meeting of April 23, 2008, the KFL&A Board of Health passed the following resolution:

THAT the Board of Health for KFL&A Public Health support the retirement homes resolutions of the Regional Municipality of Durham.

The level of care required by the residents in Ontario's Retirement Homes has greatly increased over the past decades. Many homes are not equipped to handle the increased acuity of care that their residents require, and, as such, many of the residents are already living in retirement homes eventually require supplemental nursing care being provided by outside agencies.

Residents with health issues in retirement homes may be admitted to hospital for short-term care and often return to the homes having acquired an antibiotic-resistant organism. With limited professional staff in the homes, staff receive little education to handle the necessary infection control precautions.

Public Health works closely with nursing homes and homes for the aged to manage communicable disease and to ensure infection prevention and control is in place, but has little jurisdiction over retirement homes. The only avenue for consultation occurs if public health receives a complaint related to a possible health hazard in the home.

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To address the concerns outlined above, the Ontario Government is being urged to establish consumer protection legislation for residents of retirement homes.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Pater".

Beth Pater, Chair
KFL&A Board of Health

cc: KFL&A Board of Health members
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa)
Ontario Boards of Health
Hon. L. Dombrowsky, MPP, Hastings, Prince-Edward
Hon. J. Gerretsen, MPP, Kingston and the Islands